

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Recovery of a Banded Crested Tern after 10 Years.**—On December 27, 1965, whilst investigating a nesting colony of Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*) on Seagull Island in Lake Herschell at Rottnest Island, I found a dead tern some 2-3 yards from the outskirts of the colony. The bird was in quite good condition and had probably died only within the previous 24-48 hours. It carried a C.S.I.R.O. band on its leg which indicated that it had been ringed as a chick on Dyers Island, Rottnest, on October 26, 1955 by Dr. George Dunnet. Thus the age of this particular bird was established at being just over 10 years. The band was in excellent condition.

—(The Rev.) A. de Q. ROBIN, St. George's College, Crawley.

**Nesting of the Australian Pratincole in the North-West.**—The Australian Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*) was only added to the avifauna treated in the *Birds of Western Australia* (Serventy and Whittell) in their third edition (1962) and no record of local nesting was known. On August 30, 1965, whilst travelling through Yanrey Station 70 miles south of Onslow, I saw an unfamiliar bird standing on a bare clay flat. On further inspection three birds were located and they proved to be this species. Identification was unquestionable as my wife and I had ample time to study the birds with binoculars and we had Serventy and Whittell's third edition for consultation.

After watching the birds for some time we saw one "sit down" and on inspection two eggs were found on the bare red clay without even the pretence of a nest or sign of a scratch on the smooth surface of the clay. The eggs did not camouflage with the red clay but rather contrasted with it. They were blunt oval in shape, the ground colour being a light sandy-brown with irregularly shaped spots and blotches of brownish-black, with an under layer of similarly shaped markings of pale grey. The markings were evenly distributed over the whole surface of the shell almost covering the ground colour. Size, (a) 31.5 x 23.5 mm. (b) 30 x 23.5 mm.

—G. A. LODGE, Boyup Brook.

**Forest Bird Life at Bilbarin.**—In 1946, I made a survey of the bird population in an area of open forest at Bilbarin (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 1: 34). In the course of 40 traverses 60 species were recorded.

In April 1965 I revisited the area and found the forest apparently unchanged, though the surrounding areas have been developed considerably and now afford much less cover for bird life. I spent from the mid-afternoon of April 3 until the mid-morning of the following day in the forest, and during that time recorded 29 of the species originally listed and three additional species, viz., Dusky Miner, Rufous Tree-creeper and Owllet Nightjar. This last species I recorded near the forest in 1946 so it was almost certainly present then.

Of the 30 most frequent species in 1946, 20 were relocated, the absentees being the migrant Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo, Pallid Cuckoo,